AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 – 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein the upright column further includes first and second inner side members; and

the outer shell partially surrounds the first and second inner side members so that exposed upright edges of the outer shell lay adjacent to the sides of the column at a position where the column is relatively narrower.

63. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein in use, the column resides partially within a channel formed by the outer shell.

64. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell comprises an elongate member having a substantially "C" shaped cross section.

65. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a tubular substantially cylindrical member having a pair of substantially parallel opposing edges forming either side of a gap in said part cylindrical member; and

said substantially cylindrical member extends over an angle in the range 260° to 280°, about a longitudinal center line of said outer shell.

66. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell has a height in the range 30cm to 120cm.

67. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell has an external diameter in the range 10cm to 14 cm.

68. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell has a wall thickness in the range 7mm to 9mm.

69. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a pair of opposing longitudinal edges, and has a distance between said opposing longitudinal edges in the range 5cm to 11cm.

70. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell comprises a chamfered edge positioned at an end of said

shell, between an upper face of said outer shell and an inner surface of said shell, to facilitate sliding of the inner liner with respect to the outer shell.

71. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said outer shell comprises at least one material selected from the set: a resilient elastomeric polymer based material; Polyethylene; high density Polyethylene; Polypropylene; Polycarbonate; Polyvinylchloride; Polystyrene; Plastic; or a mixture of plastics.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein a maximum distance of an outer surface of the substantially "U" shaped channel to the outer part cylindrical surface is in the range 2cm to 5cm.

75. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said inner liner comprises a material selected from the set: an elastomeric material which is relatively less dense than a material of said outer shell: Polyethylene; Polypropylene; Polycarbonate; Polyvinylchloride; Polystyrene; natural rubber foam; synthetic rubber foam; a compressive composite material; a closed cell SBR foam material.

76. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said inner liner has a height in the range 30cm to 120cm.

77. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said inner liner has an external diameter in the range 10cm to 14 cm.

78. (Previously Presented) The column protector as claimed in claim 90, wherein the substantially "U" shaped channel of said inner liner has a width in the range 7cm to 12cm.

79. (Previously Presented) The column protector as claimed in claim 90, wherein the substantially "U" shaped channel of said inner liner has a depth in the range 2cm to 4cm.

80. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said inner liner is configured such that, after receiving an impact, the inner liner promotes the repositioning of the whole device to a position similar to a position of the device before the impact occurred.

81. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 62, in which said outer shell, when fitted to said upright column, surrounds the front member, and partially surrounds said first and second inner side members thereby

protecting the front member and parts of the inner side members from direct impact and partially surrounds each of the first and second inner side members, said outer shell also surrounding said inner liner, which resides, in use between a substantially part cylindrical inner surface of the outer shell, and an outer face of the front member, an outer face of the first side member and an outer face of the second side member.

82. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, in which said inner liner and said outer shell are slideable with respect to each other in a direction along a main central axis of said outer shell.

83. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, in which said inner liner is bonded to an inner surface of the outer shell, such that the inner liner is fixed relative to the outer shell and cannot slide relative to the outer shell.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, wherein said device has greater ductility, impact resilience and persistence of shape than that of the metal rack component it is attached to.

87. (Previously Presented) The column protector device as claimed in claim 90, configured for attaching to said upright column, without the need for an integrated or independent fastening or securing mechanism or mechanisms, and without the need for a bonding agent.

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Currently Amended) A column protector device for protection of an upright column of a racking system, said upright column of a type being channel shaped in cross section and having a substantially rectangular front portion consisting of a front member and first and second side members, said column protector device is arranged to clip onto said upright column in order to grasp said upright column;

said protector device comprising:

a substantially cylindrical outer shell of a substantially "C" shaped cross section ~~which defines~~ including first and second end portions having parallel edges defining an elongated ~~slotted opening and a pair of parallel peripheral edges at the~~ slotted opening; and

an inner liner shaped to fit within said outer shell,

wherein said outer shell is configured to fit around said upright column such that the outer shell retains to said column in a self attaching manner without the need for any additional fixings,

wherein said outer shell is configured to fit around said upright column such that the ~~peripheral edges~~ first and second end portions are held apart from each other and from the upright column by the inner liner and ~~do not contact~~ are spaced apart from the inner liner and the upright column when retained in said self attaching manner and when the column protector is in a non-impacted state,

wherein said outer shell surrounds the front member and partially surrounds the first and second side members, thereby protecting the front member and parts of the side members,

wherein in use said inner liner is retained between said outer shell and said column and

in which the inner liner comprises a solid substantially part cylindrical member having a substantially part cylindrical outer surface, and a substantially "U" shaped channel formed on an opposite side of said liner to said substantially part cylindrical outer surface and in which, in use, said channel provides a flush interface between an inner profile of said inner liner and an external profile of said upright column in order for the liner to encapsulate the front member and portions of the first and second side members of said upright column, and

the inner liner being compressible such that during an impacted state at least one of the first and second end portions ~~peripheral edges~~ of the outer shell are positioned to engage and make contact with the upright column ~~under a predetermined amount of~~ in response to an impact causing sufficient compression of the inner liner, such that the inner liner provides substantially all of an initial shock absorbing resistance during the

impacted state and such that the outer shell, once engaged with and contacting the upright column, augments the shock absorbing resistance provided by the inner liner.

91. (New) A column protector device for protection of an upright column of a racking system, said upright column of a type being channel shaped in cross section and having a substantially rectangular front portion consisting of a front member and first and second side members, said column protector device is arranged to clip onto said upright column, the column protector device comprising:

a substantially cylindrical outer shell including a substantially "C" shaped cross section having first and second ends defining a slotted opening, said first and second ends being disposed between said rectangular front portion of said upright column and outwardly extending first and second lip members of said upright column such that said first and second ends are spaced apart from said rectangular front portion and said first and second lip members when the column protector device is in a non-impacted state; and

a resiliently compressible inner liner shaped to fit within said outer shell between said outer shell and said rectangular front portion of said upright column and including a "U" shaped channel configured to receive said rectangular front portion of said upright column, said resiliently compressible inner liner being configured to contact said rectangular front portion and said outer shell in the non-impacted state such that said inner liner maintains said first and second ends of said outer shell spaced apart from said first and second lip members in the non-impacted state,

wherein said first and second ends are spaced apart from said rectangular front portion and said inner liner in the non-impacted state.

92. (New) A racking system comprising:

an upright column having a channel-shaped cross section and including a front member, first and second side members extending from said front member, first and second connecting members extending from said first and second side members, respectively, third and fourth side members extending from said first and second connecting members, respectively, and first and second lip members extending from said third and fourth side members, wherein said front member and said first and second side members cooperate to form a substantially rectangular front portion, and wherein said first and second lip members extend outwardly from said third and fourth side members, respectively, and generally away from each other;

a substantially cylindrical rigid outer shell including a substantially "C" shaped cross section having first and second ends defining a slotted opening, said first and second ends being disposed between said rectangular front portion of said upright column and said first and second lip members such that said first and second ends are spaced apart from said rectangular front portion and said first and second lip members when the column protector device is in a non-impacted state; and

a resiliently compressible inner liner shaped to fit within said outer shell between said outer shell and said rectangular front portion of said upright column and including a "U" shaped channel configured to receive said rectangular front portion of said upright column, said resiliently compressible inner liner directly contacting said rectangular front

portion and said outer shell in the non-impacted state such that said inner liner maintains said first and second ends of said outer shell spaced apart from said first and second lip members in the non-impacted state.